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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/580,716

05/25/2006

Masahiro Inoue

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EXAMINER

ZIA, SYED

ART UNIT

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PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/580,716	<b>Applicant(s)</b> INOUE, MASAHIRO	
	<b>Examiner</b> SYED ZIA	<b>Art Unit</b> 2431	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 May 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)            | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

This office action is in response to application filed May 25, 2006. Claims 1-14 are pending.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Scanda Tetsuya et al. (hereafter Tetsuya) (Japanese Publication No.: 2001/306455).

1. Regarding Claim 1, Tetsuya teach and describe a communication-address issuing apparatus comprising: communication-address issuing means for uniquely assigning one pair of communication addresses to each pair of particular users between whom mediation is made and issuing the pair of communication addresses together with associating information for the pair of communication addresses (Detailed Description [007-0020]); address-information storage means for storing the issued pair of communication addresses uniquely assigned to each pair of particular users, together with original addresses of the users and the associating information; and communication-address report means for transmitting a unique pair of pieces of

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communication-address information for each pair of users to respective original addresses based on each of the pieces of storage information stored in the address-information storage means (Detailed Description [0021-0052]).

2. Regarding Claim 3, Tetsuya teach and describe a communication-mediating apparatus comprising: address-information storage means for storing an issued pair of communication addresses uniquely assigned to each pair of particular users, together with original addresses of the users and associating information for the pair of communication addresses; reception means for receiving data sent to a communication address assigned for communication between particular users, together with the communication address and the transmission-source address(Detailed Description [007-0020]; search means for searching communication addresses stored in the address-information storage means for an address identical to the communication address received by the reception means; verification means for verifying the received transmission-source address with the original address stored in the address storage means corresponding to the communication address when an address identical to the communication address is found as a result of the searching; and transmission means for reading out another communication address which constitutes the pair with the communication address and which is stored in the address-information storage means to set it as a transmission-source address and for transmitting the data to the original address corresponding to the communication address when the transmission-source address matches the original address as a result of the verification made by the verification means(Detailed Description [0021-0052])..

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3. Regarding Claim 4, Tetsuya teach and describe a communication-mediating apparatus comprising: address-information storage means for storing an issued pair of communication addresses uniquely assigned to each pair of particular users, together with original addresses of the users and associating information for the pair of communication addresses; reception means for receiving data sent to a communication address assigned for communication between particular users, together with the communication address and the transmission-source address; search means for searching communication addresses stored in the address-information storage means for an address identical to the communication address received by the reception means; verification means for verifying the received transmission-source address with the original address stored in the address storage means corresponding to the communication address when an address identical to the communication address is found as a result of the searching (Detailed Description [007-0020]; transmission means for reading out another communication address which constitutes the pair with the communication address and which is stored in the address-information storage means to set it as a transmission-source address and for transmitting the data to the original address corresponding to the communication address when the transmission-source address matches the original address as a result of the verification made by the verification means; and transmission-and-reception-history storage means for storing a transmission and reception history of the reception means and the transmission means and making the transmission and reception history available for output (Detailed Description [0021-0052])..

4. Regarding Claim 5, Tetsuya teach and describe a communication-mediating method

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executed with a structure including: address-information storage means for storing an issued pair of communication addresses uniquely assigned to each pair of particular users, together with original addresses of the users and associating information for the pair of communication addresses; reception means for receiving data sent to a communication address assigned for communication between particular users, together with the communication address and the transmission-source address; search means for searching the address-information storage means for the communication address received by the reception means; verification means for verifying the received transmission-source address with the original address stored in the address storage means corresponding to the communication address (Detailed Description [007-0020]; and transmission means for transmitting the data to an original address of the other user, the communication-mediating method comprising the steps of: receiving, with the reception means, data sent to a communication address assigned for communication between particular users, together with the communication address and the transmission-source address; searching, with the search means, communication addresses stored in the address-information storage means for an address identical to the received communication address; verifying, with the verification means, the received transmission-source address with the original address stored in the address storage means corresponding to the communication address when an address identical to the communication address is found as a result of the searching; and reading out another communication address which constitutes the pair with the communication address and which is stored in the account-information storage means to set it as a transmission-source address and transmitting, with the transmission means, the data to the original address corresponding to the communication address when the transmission-source address matches the original address as a

result of the verification (Detailed Description [0021-0052]).

5. Regarding Claim 6, Tetsuya teach and describe a communication-mediating method executed with a structure including: address-information storage means for storing an issued pair of communication addresses uniquely assigned to each pair of particular users, together with original addresses of the users and associating information for the pair of communication addresses; reception means for receiving data sent to a communication address assigned for communication between particular users, together with the communication address and the transmission-source address; search means for searching the address-information storage means for the communication address received by the reception means; verification means for verifying the received transmission-source address with the original address stored in the address storage means corresponding to the communication address (Detailed Description [007-0020]; transmission means for transmitting the data to an original address of the other user; and transmission-and-reception-history storage means for storing a transmission and reception history of the reception means and the transmission means, the communication-mediating method comprising the steps of: receiving, with the reception means, data sent to a communication address assigned for communication between particular users, together with the communication address and the transmission-source address; searching, with the search means, communication addresses stored in the address-information storage means for an address identical to the received communication address; verifying, with the verification means, the received transmission-source address with the original address stored in the address storage means corresponding to the communication address when an address identical to the

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communication address is found as a result of the searching; reading out another communication address which constitutes the pair with the communication address and which is stored in the account-information storage means to set it as a transmission-source address and transmitting, with the transmission means, the data to the original address corresponding to the communication address when the transmission-source address matches the original address as a result of the verification; and outputting the stored transmission and reception history, with the transmission-and-reception-history storage means, upon instruction to the transmission-and-reception-history storage means (Detailed Description [0021-0052]).

6. Regarding Claim 7, Tetsuya teach and describe a computer program for issuing a communication address, the program being read and executed by a computer to cause the computer to function as: communication-address issuing means for uniquely assigning one pair of communication addresses to each pair of particular users between whom mediation is made (Detailed Description [007-0020], and issuing the pair of communication addresses together with associating information for the pair of communication addresses; address-information storage means for storing the issued pair of communication addresses uniquely assigned to each pair of particular users, together with original addresses of the users and the associating information; and communication-address report means for transmitting a unique pair of pieces of communication-address information for each pair of users to respective original addresses based on each of the pieces of storage information stored in the address-information storage means (Detailed Description [0021-0052]).



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7. Regarding Claim 9, Tetsuya teach and describe a computer program for mediating communication, the program being read and executed by a computer to cause the computer to function as: address-information storage means for storing an issued pair of communication addresses uniquely assigned to each pair of particular users, together with original addresses of the users and associating information for the pair of communication addresses ;reception means for receiving data sent to a communication address assigned for communication between particular users (Detailed Description [007-0020], together with the communication address and the transmission-source address ;search means for searching communication addresses stored in the address-information storage means for an address identical to the communication address received by the reception means; verification means for verifying the received transmission-source address with the original address stored in the address storage means corresponding to the communication address when an address identical to the communication address is found as a result of the searching; and transmission means for reading out another communication address which constitutes the pair with the communication address and which is stored in the address-information storage means to set it as a transmission-source address and for transmitting the data to the original address corresponding to the communication address when the transmission-source address matches the original address as a result of the verification made by the verification means (Detailed Description [0021-0052])..

8. Regarding Claim 10, Tetsuya teach and describe a computer program for mediating communication, the program being read and executed by a computer to cause the computer to function as: address-information storage means for storing an issued pair of communication

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addresses uniquely assigned to each pair of particular users, together with original addresses of the users and associating information for the pair of communication addresses; reception means for receiving data sent to a communication address assigned for communication between particular users (Detailed Description [007-0020], together with the communication address and the transmission-source address; search means for searching communication addresses stored in the address-information storage means for an address identical to the communication address received by the reception means; verification means for verifying the received transmission-source address with the original address stored in the address storage means corresponding to the communication address when an address identical to the communication address is found as a result of the searching; transmission means for reading out another communication address which constitutes the pair with the communication address and which is stored in the address-information storage means to set it as a transmission-source address and for transmitting the data to the original address corresponding to the communication address when the transmission-source address matches the original address as a result of the verification made by the verification means; and transmission-and-reception-history storage means for storing a transmission and reception history of the reception means and the transmission means and making the transmission and reception history available for output (Detailed Description [0021-0052]).

9. Claims 2, 8 and 11-14 are rejected applied as above rejecting Claims 1, and 7-10.

Furthermore, Tetsuya teaches and describes a method for communication mediation, wherein,

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As per Claim 2, when one of the issued pair of communication addresses is modified, the communication-address issuing means issues a new communication address only for the modified one, and the address-information storage means updates only the communication address to be modified to the new communication address and stores the new communication address (Means [0014-0031]).

As per Claim 8: a computer program according to claim 7, wherein, when one of the issued pair of communication addresses is modified, the communication-address issuing means issues a new communication address only for the modified one, and the address-information storage means updates only the communication address to be modified to the new communication address and stores the new communication address (Means [0014-0031]).

As per Claim 11-14: a computer-readable recording medium having stored therein the computer program according to claim 7-10 (Drawing 2: Means [0014-0046]).

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SYED ZIA whose telephone number is (571)272-3798. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

sz

September 10, 2009

/Syed Zia/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2431